(c) the steps being taken by Government to provide STD facilities to all telephone exchanges set up in rural areas of Meghalaya?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) Electronic telephone exchanges with STD facilities are being set up at Rymbai, 8th Mile, Shangpung, Balat, Sumer and Rambari during 1999-2000.

(b) Fourteen electronic telephone exchanges with STD facilities were set up during last three years and till date.

(c) To provide STD facilities transmission media like OFC, M/W, MCPC systems are being planned and installed.

Quasi judicial status of TRAI

2013. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Telecom Regulatory Authority of India retaining its quasi judicial status after promulgation of the ordinance enjoys exemption from audit objection;

(b) whether the Chairmen of PSUs and CAG have raised serious objection to the aforesaid move; and

(c) if so, what is Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI TAPAN SIKDAR): (a) to (c) No, Sir. However, while the CAG has objected to the exclusion of the tariff setting function from audit's purview, in this connection it is pointed out that under section 23(c) of the TRAI Act 1997, the accounts of TRAI shall be audited by the CAG at such intervals as may be specified by him. This provision empowering the CAG to audit the accounts of TRAI has not been affected by the amendment to section 23(2) of the Act, which has only inserted an explanation for the removal of doubts.

Non-operational multi access remote relays in Maharashtra

2014. SHRI VIJAY J. DARDA: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that most of the multi access remote relays in the country are non-operational;